

Archived: 19 November 2024 14:32:35

From: [FOI Responses](#)

Sent: 17 October 2024 10:00:58

Subject: Freedom of Information Response

Importance: Normal

Sensitivity: None

Dear

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request dated 2nd October 2024 for information about children in care. Please find below City of Doncaster Council's responses to the questions you have raised.

Question 1: How many children do you have in care in your Local Authority?

Response: 531

Question 2: How many foster carers do you currently have approved in-house?

Response: There are currently 123 approved foster carers in Doncaster which includes unconnected, connected, and temporarily approved foster carers.

Question 3: In the financial year of March 31st 2023-1st April 2024 how many foster carers did you approve and how many resigned in that period?

Response: 6 fostering households were approved during 2023/24
15 fostering households were de-registered during 2023/24

Question 4: What are your top three sufficiency needs in terms of placement availability for children and young people?

Response:

In-house fostering for older children

In-house fostering for siblings' groups

18 plus provision, which impacts on other children securing provision in their local area (impact of covid 19, cost of living and availability or provision).

Question 5: What are the fostering allowances in your service for mainstream foster carers?

Response:

The child's allowance paid to foster carers is outlined below.

Child's allowance	
Age	Weekly amount
0 to 4 years	£ 170.00
5 to 10 years	£ 187.00
11 to 15 years	£ 213.00
16 years plus	£ 249.00

The skills levels are

Skills Level	Weekly Amount
1	£ 100.00
2	£ 150.00
3	£ 267.00

Question 6: What is the % split between children placed in house and children placed in IFA?

Response: There is a 52% to 48% split between children placed in house and children placed with an independent fostering agency.

Question 7: How many children do you have in residential care?

Response: There are 62 children placed in children's residential care homes

Question 8: Do you have any specialist foster carer projects such as step across from residential care? Yes or No

Response: Yes, we have a stepping across from residential care foster carer project.

Question 9: If you do have a project of this kind, please answer the following:

a. Is this an in-house project or outsourced to an IFA?

Response: This is an in-house project; it is a small pilot project

b. How many children within this project had a plan of foster care but ended up in residential care due to lack of foster carer availability?

Response: No children within the pilot project have moved to a residential children's home due to the lack of foster carer availability. The purpose of the project is supporting children move from residential children's homes to foster care.

c. How many of the children in this project had a care plan of residential but are now ready to move into foster care?

Response: One child is ready to move from a children's residential children's home to a fostering pilot project.

d. When did this project start and what is the duration of the project?

Response: The pilot project started in September 2023. There is a current consultation with key stakeholders of the project which will inform the next steps, e.g., whether the project is expanded.

e. How many children in total within this project are you aiming to move back into foster care?

Response: It is not possible to predict at this stage, this will be determined following consultation with key stakeholders of the pilot project.

f. Thus far, how many children have you successfully placed into foster care via this project?

Response: 3 children have been placed with foster carers through the pilot project.

g. Of these children moved, have the children moved in the agreed timeframe? and if not what have been the barriers?

Response: Yes

h. Are the children placed solo or alongside other children in care?

Response: Each case is reviewed and decided on individually. This could either be a solo placement or placed with other children in care.

i. What are the carers paid inhouse or IFA paid per placement per child stepping from residential into foster care?

Response: £961.54

j. Is there an aftercare package attached to this project and if so, what does this consist of in terms of support?

Response: Ongoing support is available to foster carers through their supervising social worker, access to multi agency support groups including psychology, social work and fostering and virtual school, individual sessions through psychology where required and assessed.

I hope that this information is useful to you.

City of Doncaster Council estimates that it has cost £98.00 respond to this request for information.

Reviewing any decisions made:

If you are not happy with this reply you can ask us to review our response. To do this write to us within 40 working days of receiving your response at the address below or email FOIAppeals@doncaster.gov.uk

If you do not agree with the review decision you can apply to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision about our compliance or otherwise with the Freedom of Information legislation. Contact details for the ICO are: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. www.ico.org.uk Telephone 0303 123 1113.

Yours sincerely,
Sophie

Sophie Ormshaw

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Please treat the content of this e-mail as confidential. If you have received this e-mail and it is not addressed to you please accept my apologies and inform me as soon as possible.

-----Original Message-----

Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2024 10:18 AM
To: Freedom of Information Requests <FOI.Requests@doncaster.gov.uk>
Subject: Freedom of Information request - Children in Care Statistics

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

Dear Doncaster Borough Council,

1. How many children do you have in care in your Local Authority?
2. How many foster carers do you currently have approved in-house?
3. In the financial year of March 31st 2023-1st April 2024 how many foster carers did you approve and how many resigned in that period?
4. What are your top three sufficiency needs in terms of placement availability for children and young people?
5. What are the fostering allowances in your service for mainstream foster carers?
6. What is the % split between children placed in house and children placed in IFA?
7. How many children do you have in residential care?
8. Do you have any specialist foster carer projects such as step across from residential care? Yes or No
9. If you do have a project of this kind, please answer the following:
 - a) Is this an in-house project or outsourced to an IFA?
 - b) How many children within this project had a plan of foster care but ended up in residential care due to lack of foster carer availability?
 - c) How many of the children in this project had a care plan of residential but are now ready to move into foster care?
 - d) When did this project start and what is the duration of the project?

- e) How many children in total within this project are you aiming to move back into foster care?
- f) Thus far, how many children have you successfully placed into foster care via this project?
- g) Of these children moved, have the children moved in the agreed timeframe? and if not what have been the barriers?
- h) Are the children placed solo or alongside other children in care?
- i) What are the carers paid inhouse or IFA paid per placement per child stepping from residential into foster care?
- j) Is there an aftercare package attached to this project and if so, what does this consist of in terms of support?

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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